

REMARKS

Attached hereto is an excess claims fee letter and fee for five additional total claims (28-32) and a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). An Amendment Under 37 CFR §1.116 was filed on May 29, 2006, and the filing of the RCE forces entry of this after-final Amendment. This Preliminary Amendment is additional to the previously-filed after-final Amendment.

Claims 1, 2, 4-12, 15-18, and 21-32 are pending, although claims 2, 6-12, 15-18, 21-23, and 26 are currently withdrawn. Claims 3, 13, 14, 19, and 20 are canceled. Dependent claims 28-32 are added. Claims 1, 4, 5, 24, 25, and 27-32 are currently subject to analysis. Claim 1 is generic to the two embodiments, as respectively shown in Figures 3 and 6.

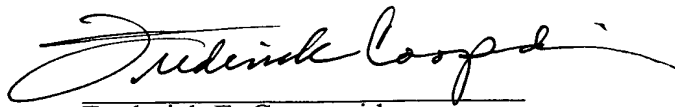
In view of the arguments in the above-mentioned Amendment Under 37 CFR §1.116 and the new claims herein, Applicant submits that claims 1, 4, 5, 24, 25, and 27-32 are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 7/27/06



Frederick E. Cooperrider
Reg. No. 36,769

McGinn Intellectual Property Law Group, PLLC
8321 Old Courthouse Road, Suite 200
Vienna, VA 22182-3817
(703) 761-4100
Customer No. 21254